

Comes in from the cold

CPYRGHT

Former Nazi has spied his last

For 20 years, the West's spy network in Europe has been led by a faceless former Nazi general. The man, last photographed before World War II, is Reinhard Gehlen. Next year he will retire, to a life of double guards outside his door day and night.

Gehlen's staff and their families live behind a high electric fence in a forest near Munich, in West Germany. The spy network has some 5,000 agents, with almost \$3 million a year of his budget coming from the United States.

He joined the West just as the war in Europe ended. With a pile of papers under his arm, he knocked on the door of an American patrol post and said quietly, "I am General Reinhard Gehlen." For a time, no one cared. German generals were a dime a dozen. Gehlen persistently said he had documents the Americans would be very interested in.

When intelligence finally got to Gehlen, they sat up in their chairs. He had a complete rundown on the Russians—plans, weapons and all.

He had gathered the information for Hitler, and he told the Fuehrer that any German attack on Russia would be a mistake.

Hitler went his way—to defeat—and Gehlen went his—to the Americans.

Before he agreed to set up an intelligence network to serve the West, he demanded a free hand. He wanted a German staff, with money to come from the United States. He has often been criticized for using too many former SS men in his organization. He says the United States doesn't mind.

The Gehlen organization now has come under the control of the West German government. Former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was one of Gehlen's strongest supporters.

The mysterious general probably played as significant a role as anyone in convincing the US that Germany should be rearmed. He has even influenced appointments in the West German army.

✓ If the Communists have a most hated list in Europe, the general with the big ears is probably number one. His intelligence network, free of the bureaucracy that burdens the CIA, has been extremely effective. His enemies testify to that.

It is hard to imagine the retirement party. A gold watch—maybe. But no pictures.

